

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1104

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: USIRJC

SUBJ: TECHNICAL COOPERATION ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

REF: STATE 74406, STATE 86180

1. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE ARTICLE 3 OF THE US-IRAN TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT OF MARCH 5, 1975 PROVIDES THAT THE CONTRACTING PARTIES SHALL ADOPT MUTUALLY AGREEABLE ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATIONAL AND STAFF ARRANGEMENTS TO FACILITATE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT. HERETOFORE IT HAS BEEN THE INCLINATION OF THE GOI AS WELL AS THE USG TO LEAVE TO THE RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENTS OR AGENCIES OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS THE FORMULATION OF MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE AGREEMENTS FOR THESE PURPOSES. WITH THE PROSPECT OF A PROLIFERATION OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS AND THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE THAT ARE TO BE INVOLVED, HOWEVER, IT IS CLEAR THAT STANDARDIZATION IS IMPERATIVE AND THIS WAS PROVIDED FOR IN ARTICLE 5 OF THE MARCH 5 AGREEMENT. WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING SUCH STANDARDS WITH THE GOI. THERE FOLLOWS A BRIEF RESUME OF THE STEPS THAT HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO DATE.

2. WITH REFERENCE TO THE QUESTION OF PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES, WE HAVE APPROACHED THE MFA TO DETERMINE WHEN ITS INTERNAL PROCESSES MAY BE COMPLETED WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WOULD ENABLE IT THROUGH AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES WITH THIS

EMBASSY TO BRING THE AGREEMENT INTO FORCE. THE MFA IS HOPEFUL THAT THIS PROCESS, WHICH REQUIRES MAJLES APPROVAL, CAN BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE END OF THE CURRENT MAJLES SESSION THIS JULY. IT CANNOT AT THIS JUNCTURE GUARANTEE THAT THIS WILL BE THE CASE. ACCORDINGLY, IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED TO THE MFA THAT ON AN AD HOC BASIS FOR THE PURPOSES OF PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES IT CONSIDER TREATING ALL US GOVERNMENT OR US CONTRACT EMPLOYEES THAT COME TO IRAN UNDER THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT AS ADDITIONS TO THE US MISSION IN IRAN. THE MFA HAS THIS SUGGESTION UNDER ADVISEMENT.

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE, LOGISTICAL AND STAFF SUPPORT OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION TEAMS, WE HAVE SUGGESTED TO THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND FINANCE (WHOSE MINISTER IS THE CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT COMMISSION) SEVERAL ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO THE ISSUES OF HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION, PROVISION OF HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS, OFFICE AND HOUSING SUPPLY AND MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT STAFF. OUR SUGGESTIONS RANGE FROM THE GOI PROVIDING ALL OF THESE SERVICES ON A CENTRALIZED BASIS THROUGH VARIATIONS ON REIMBURSABLE EMBASSY SUPPORT TO ALLOWANCES WHICH WOULD ENABLE TEAMS AND/OR INDIVIDUALS TO MAKE THEIR OWN ARRANGEMENTS. WHATEVER VARIANT THE GOI CHOOSES, IT IS OUR FUNDAMENTAL PURPOSE TO ACHIEVE A STANDARD AND UNIFORM SET OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR ALL TECHNICAL COOPERATION EMPLOYEES. IN THIS CONNECTION WE FEEL STRONGLY THAT THESE TERMS AND CONDITIONS SHOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH THOSE THAT APPLY TO OTHER US MISSION PERSONNEL.

4. OBVIOUSLY THE METHOD THE GOI WILL CHOOSE TO PROVIDE NEEDED ADMINISTRATIVE, LOGISTICAL AND STAFF SUPPORT WILL INFLUENCE THE NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS THIS EMBASSY WILL REQUIRE. ASSUMING ROUGHLY A FIFTY-FIFTY DIVISION OF LABOR BETWEEN THE GOI AND THE EMBASSY, WE CALCULATE THAT WE WILL NEED ONE ADDITIONAL AMERICAN ADMINISTRATIVE POSITION FOR EVERY THIRTY-FORTY TECHNICAL COOPERATION PERSONNEL. WE WILL ALSO NEED FOUR ADDITIONAL LOCAL EMPLOYEES FOR THE SAME NUMBER. THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COSTS FOR THESE EMPLOYEES WILL BE FULLY REIMBURSABLE BY THE GOI ON THE SAME TERMS AND CONDITIONS AS OTHER TECHNICAL COOPERATION EMPLOYEES. IT IS OUR PRESENT ESTIMATE THAT SOME 90-100 USG EMPLOYEES WILL BE IN-COUNTRY UNDER TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS WITHIN THE NEXT THREE TO FOUR MONTHS. WE BELIEVE IT URGENT THEREFORE THAT THE DEPARTMENT TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO PROVIDE FOR THREE ADDITIONAL AMERICAN ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS FOR THE EMBASSY AND BEGIN THE SELECTION OF CANDIDATES

TO FILL THESE POSITIONS. OUR IMMEDIATE REQUIREMENTS ARE ONE GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER, ONE BUDGET AND FISCAL OFFICER AND ONE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER. AS ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL ARRIVE AND THE TEMPO OF PROGRAM ACTIVITY PICKS UP, WE WOULD NEED TO AUGMENT THIS STAFF WITH ANOTHER GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER, WITH A BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE OFFICER AND A C&R OFFICER.

5. OUR THOUGHTS ON THE NEED TO AUGMENT THE EMBASSY STAFF WITH A SUBSTANTIVE OFFICER TO ASSIST IN THE FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT AS WELL AS OTHER ACTIVITIES GENERATED THROUGH THE JOINT COMMISSION WILL BE PROVIDED SEPTEL. IN THE MEANTIME IT IS OUR FIRM CONVICTION THAT WE NEED US-IRAN AGREEMENT ON MATTER SET FORTH ABOVE BEFORE ANY RPT ANY PERSONNEL ARE SENT TO IRAN UNDER TCA AGREEMENTS.

6. DEPARTMENT COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS APPRECIATED.
HELMS

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